

# Program Five: Human Ecology

Exploring eco justice as a life issue, part of what Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (1928 - 1996) described as the "seamless garment" of life issues from the moment of conception to natural death.

## Materials

### Videos

- Program Five: Human Ecology

### Websites

Visit the websites of people interviewed for this series:

- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna
- Elliot Allen Institute of Theology and Ecology
- Farmland Legacies Project
- Heirloom Seed Sanctuary
- Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative (ICUCEC)
- Justice and Peace Commission
- Madonna House
- Prairie Garden Seeds
- Scarborough Missions
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Gabriel's Parish, Willowdale, ON
- St. Joseph Villa Retreat and Ecology Centre
- St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, SK

### Documents

- Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment June 2015. Coming Soon
- Building a New Culture - Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment

Read the original documents for papal statements quotes in this program:

- Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate (2009)
- Benedict XVI, Message to Brazilian Bishops for the 2011 Brotherhood Campaign (February 16, 2011)
- Francis, General Audience (June 5, 2013)

### Books

- Ten Commandments for the Environment Benedict XVI. Ave Maria Press. 2009



## Study Guide

### Goal

The goal of Program Five is to introduce to the third theme of the CCCB document "Building a New Culture - Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment" about the relationship between human ecology and environmental ecology.

### Steps

1. Show the video "Program Five: Human Ecology"
2. Ask students to form small groups to describe the following impressions from the video:
  - What is the third theme of the document and why is it important?
  - How did Dr. James Penna get involved with the environment?
  - What did you know after viewing the video that you didn't know before?
  - Which quote from what pope in this episode means the most to you and why?
3. Option for Take-Home Assignment. Using the internet, find more facts about:
  - Existing Catholic eco justice initiatives
  - The writings of Popes on the environment
4. Write 1.5 pages on the results of your research.
5. Group discussion  
In groups, first share your short essays and then, asking one person to represent the discussion, make presentations to the class about any or all of the above.  
Include suggestions on how students could start an ongoing eco justice project or become involved with local Catholic eco justice projects already in existence.